2009 Annual Report

Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009

Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Assemblée législative

C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

June 14, 2010

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the period January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff of the Legislative Assembly for the important work they do in supporting the exercise of parliamentary democracy on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Hon. Kathleen Casey, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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June 11, 2010

Honourable Kathleen Casey, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province House
Charlottetown

Dear Madam Speaker,

I have the pleasure of presenting the 8th Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This report will highlight the various activities of the Office of the Clerk and Office of the Legislative Assembly for the period January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly,
and Secretary, PEI Branch of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

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PART 1 -
MANAGEMENT -
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATION

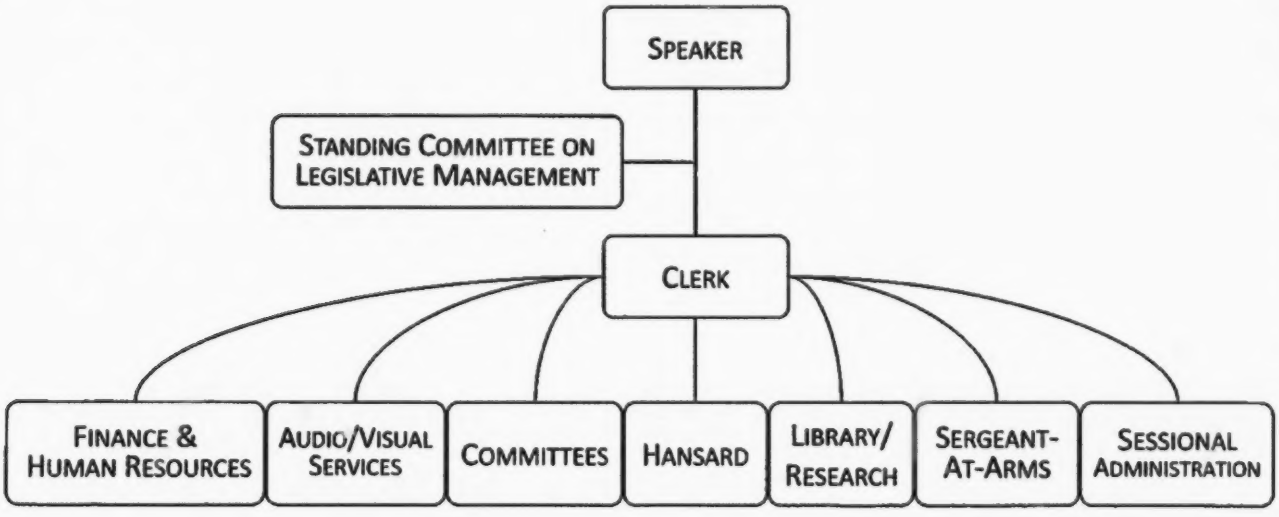
MANAGEMENT -
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The OLA has access to a wide range of staff and resources that help support the activities of the House and provide services to the public: administrators, lawyers, security, researchers, computer technicians, and maintenance personnel.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) provides the administrative and procedural support Members need to carry out their duties as elected officials. The OLA functions as an impartial authority responsible for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker and composed of Members of the House, governs the OLA and ensures an "arm's length" relationship is maintained between the operation of the House and the operation of the Executive.

Below is an unofficial organizational chart of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.



MANAGEMENT -
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Chaired by the Speaker, the Committee oversees the administration of the House. Membership in the Committee is set out in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, according to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, is comprised of the Speaker (as Chair), the Leader of the Official Opposition (or designate), Leader of the Third Party (or designate), Government House Leader (or designate), Government Caucus Chair (or designate), Opposition Caucus Chair (or designate) and the Deputy Speaker.

The Committee is responsible for the policies which govern the administration of the Legislative Assembly, covering everything from providing security and managing the facilities, to appointing and supervising staff, to reviewing the Assembly's estimates and expenditures. The Committee can also undertake additional duties if contributory to the efficient management of the Legislative Assembly.

During 2009, the Committee was active in dealing with such matters as staffing, management of Province House and Queens Square, and operation of the offices of the Legislative Assembly. Specifically, some of the matters considered by the Committee include;

- Planning and base budget for the Legislative Assembly for 2009/2010
- Recommended appointment of Mr. Neil Robinson as Conflict on Interest Commissioner
- Information Technology security and services
- Accreditation process for media at the Legislative Assembly
- Ordered a review of security services for Province House and the Hon. George Coles building

The Committee provides security, facilities, and services for party caucuses and Members, appoints staff, and oversees the budget of the Legislative Assembly.

MANAGEMENT -
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Charles H. MacKay

CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Marian Johnston

Sincere appreciation is offered to all of those in the Government Service who contribute so substantially to the operation and support of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. Without the services of these dedicated public servants, the Office of the Assembly would not be in a position to deliver the programming and level of support to members as presently provided. In particular, special thanks are extended to:

- Audio Visual Services (Provincial Treasury)
- Fiscal Management (Provincial Treasury)
- Queen's Printer (Provincial Treasury)
- Financial Information System support
- Information Technology Shared Services
- Department of Transportation and Public Works (especially building maintenance)
- Provincial Archives

Activities

Some of the projects under way or completed in the last year include:

- adoption of the revised and annotated *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*
- continued discussions with Parks Canada on the capital expenditures required for ongoing maintenance of Province House, as governed by the *Memorandum of Agreement* between the Province and Parks Canada
- security system enhancements at Legislative Assembly Office locations in Province House, the Hon. George Coles

As the chief permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk aides the Speaker in providing administrative support to Members, and advises the Speaker and all Members on parliamentary procedure, helping ensure the proper execution of House rules and practices.

Building, and the J. Angus MacLean Building, under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms
- implemented Legislative Assembly's interpretive guide program
- ongoing support provided for such initiatives as the 2008 Rotary Youth Parliament, co-management of Province House (in cooperation with Parks Canada)
- launch of the Legislative Assembly website with a new layout and design

Conference Activity

- Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada - St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Council of State Governments/ Eastern Regional Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference, Edmonton, Alberta
- Canadian Presiding Officer's Conference, Regina, Saskatchewan
- Eastern Leadership Academy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Clerk maintains official records of the business of the House, and is the custodian of the House's parliamentary papers.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are present at each sitting of the House, seated at a table in front of the Speaker.

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Clerk of Committees are also referred to as 'Clerks-at-the-Table' or 'Table Officers'.

Any documents or reports presented by Members during the sitting are given to the Clerk for safekeeping, and are said to have been 'tabled.'

PART 2 -
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT -
HOUSE ACTIVITY & BUDGET

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT -
HOUSE ACTIVITY

The 2nd Session of the 63rd General Assembly adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 8, 2009, and resumed on April 2, 2009. The 2nd Session was later prorogued by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor on May 15, 2009. The Spring 2009 sitting of the 2nd Session lasted 26 days.

The 3rd Session of the 63rd General Assembly commenced on Thursday, November 12, 2009, with the second Speech from the Throne as delivered by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Barbara A. Hagerman. The Fall sitting lasted 15 sittings days and adjourned to the call of the Speaker on December 8, 2009.

Survey of Sitting Days in the House, 1998-2009

Year	Number of days
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. 2009	39
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2008	41
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2007*	27
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006	50
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005	54
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2004	46
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2003*	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002	45
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001	44
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2000*	35
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1999	58

**Indicates a General Election year.*

At December 31, 2009, party standings in the House were 24 Liberal Members and 3 Progressive Conservative Members.

No by-elections were held during 2009.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS COVERED IN THIS PERIOD

2nd Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly (Spring 2009 Sitting) *April 4, 2009 - May 15, 2009*

3rd Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly (Fall 2009 Sitting) *November 12, 2009 - December 8, 2009*

LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS

Government Motions: 42
Government Bills: 35

Private Members' Motions: 41
Private Members' Bills: 1

Written Questions Tabled: 48
Written Questions Answered: 30

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure tabled April 16, 2009.

Budget Approved

Supplemental Estimates of Expenditure tabled May 13, 2009, and December 4, 2009.

Capital Estimates were tabled on November 27, 2009.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT -
BUDGET OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

	2009/2010 ESTIMATE($)
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
Administration	116,700
Equipment	28,500
Materials, Supplies & Services	99,400
Professional & Contract Services	102,000
Salaries	1,543,400
Travel & Training	21,100
Grants	234,700
Total Legislative Services	**2,145,800**
MEMBERS	
Salaries	2,136,100
Travel & Training	126,000
Total Members	**2,262,100**
OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER	
Salaries	40,300
Travel & Training	3,200
Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	**43,500**
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION & PRIVACY COMMISSIONER	
Administration	4,900
Materials, Supplies & Services	1,600
Professional & Contract Services	1,000
Salaries	95,800
Travel & Training	5,000
Total Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner	**108,300**

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT -
BUDGET OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

	2009/2010 ESTIMATE($)
ELECTIONS PEI	
Administration	5,000
Equipment	1,300
Materials, Supplies & Services	2,500
Professional & Contract Services	14,000
Salaries	204,400
Travel & Training	4,000
Total Elections	**231,200**
TOTAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	**4,790,900**

PART 3 -
BEHIND THE SCENES -
REPORTS FROM ASSEMBLY OFFICES

BEHIND THE SCENES -
HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Cheryl Stead

This section of the Legislative Assembly reports directly to the Clerk on matters relating to Human Resources, Financial Services and Administration. The Administrative Officer position focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on pay and benefits for employees and Members; budgeting and day-to-day finances of Legislative Services, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commission.

An important aspect of the position involves advising employees on benefits and leave interpretation, as well as providing information to both the Government House and Opposition Leaders on staffing budgets. Members' pay and benefits, including mileage allowances are a function of this position.

Information Technology security for the Legislative Assembly continues to be a challenge due to sharing services with line departments. In an effort to prevent security breaches a new account creation, removal and rights modification process was developed in 2009. A number of meetings with IT Service Center managers were held resulting in four (4) new work request forms being created as well as a new protocol for IT technicians to use when providing support to the Legislative Assembly.

A Legislative Assembly Employee Development and Training Fund proposal was drafted, which was subsequently approved by the Legislative Management Committee in October. The Fund provides a maximum of $15,000 for staff training and development per year, with a maximum of $2,500 for a salaried employee and up to $1,000 for a casual who has served at least two consecutive sessions. The selection committee, of which I am a member, reviews the applications for approval. We are very pleased with the

establishment of this Fund as both government and the excluded employees groups have had access to such a fund for some years now. To date, two employees have applied and been approved for funding.

The Legislative Assembly uses the Oracle Financial System and Oracle Financial Analyzer (OFA) and is a part of the overall government financial process. The annual budget exercise commenced in December, 2008 for presentation in the spring 2009 session. Along with budget preparation, quarterly forecasting is prepared three times annually to ensure operations stay within the approved budget. The OFA software was upgraded in 2009 and a training session was held in September. In July training was conducted for Oracle BI Discoverer, an application that combines information from the Financial Information System, payroll and Oracle.

The Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration, of which I am a member, held its annual conference from September 15 - 18 in Regina, Saskatchewan. The topics included: Human Resources Strategies for Engaging our Baby Boomers and Leveraging Knowledge Transfer; Non-Partisan Hiring; Accounts Payable: Balancing Risks and Internal Controls; Parliamentary Administration: The Perspective of Three Clerks; Generational Differences; the Newfoundland Experience; the Challenges of Accommodating Disabled Workers; Business Continuity and Pandemic Planning; Strategies to Enhance the Separation of the MLA Role from the Ministerial and Political Role; Information Management and Archiving, Legislative Tracking, Digital Audio; and Privacy Issues within the Legislative Environment. As always, the business sessions and the opportunity this conference provides for networking with fellow Legislative Administrators is very beneficial.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Legislature participated in the Post-Secondary Student Program, hiring a Legislative Interpreter for a 17-week period from June 8 to October 3, 2009. Selection interviews, payroll documentation and timekeeping are administered through this office, as well as pay and timekeeping for the Government Members' Office, the Opposition Office and the Information & Privacy Commission.

In September, the recruitment process for Legislative Pages commenced by sending a letter of invitation to eight senior high schools in the province. The schools chose their candidate and advised the Legislature by October 2, 2008. Orientation was held on October 23rd prior to the November 12th House opening.

The annual United Way campaign is conducted from this office. The canvas includes all Members and staff, as well as staff of Elections PEI and the Information and Privacy Commission. Once again the Legislative Assembly had an excellent level of donor support.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk, Clerk Assistant and all my co-workers for the cooperation and support they provided during the year.

Behind the Scenes -
Audio/Visual Services

Manager,
Multimedia Services
Irwin Campbell

Multimedia Services had a busy year supporting activities at the Provincial Legislature. The new equipment that was installed in the fall of 2008 for broadcast and streaming from the Provincial Legislature worked very well. We received a number of favorable comments from news people, as well as general viewers.

Multimedia Services also supplied technical support for approximately 35 Standing Committee meetings. The technicians upgraded the audio system to reinforce sound in the Pope Room so people attending the committee meetings could hear the proceedings better.

Multimedia Services strives to improve the delivery of the proceeding of the Provincial Legislature to the general public by researching and testing new technologies.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

CLERK OF COMMITTEES
Marian Johnston

COMMITTEE CLERK
Melissa Keefe

STANDING COMMITTEES

Agriculture, Environment, Energy & Forestry

Community & Intergovernmental Affairs

Constitution of Canada

Education & Innovation

Fisheries, Transportation & Rural Development

Health, Social Development & Seniors

Privileges, Rules & Private Bills

Public Accounts

Highlights of Committee Activity

In total, 42 meetings were held during 2009 to undertake the work mandated to the various committees. Fourteen reports were presented to the Legislative Assembly for its consideration.

Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills

The Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills completed its study of the rules of the Legislative Assembly during which it reviewed a number of proposed modifications to the current rules. These included incorporation of committee guidelines into the main body of the rules, a simplification of capitalization, grammar, punctuation and language, a re-drafting of certain rules to conform with the practices of the House; the addition of a comprehensive table of contents, and an expansion of the forms of proceeding. Beyond changes to the text, a number of features were incorporated into the book itself in order to make it a more "user-friendly" publication. The staggered sections and various colours of the previous rule book were eliminated in favour of descriptive headings which correspond to the table of contents. The rules were grouped according to subject matter and organized into 28 chapters. As compared with the previous rule book of the Legislative Assembly, the new rule book is larger at 6-1/2" x 9-1/2", and is printed on a heavier paper stock for ease of handling. The Calibri typeface was selected to improve readability; and the point size of the text was increased for the same reason. The new rule book was adopted on an interim basis for effect beginning April 7, 2009, to continue until permanently adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

As part of its overall review of the rules of the Legislative Assembly, the committee studied the adequacy and appropriateness of the current committee system and concluded that, in general, the committees are able to do their work well. The committees are capable of carrying out investigations, hearing witnesses, sifting evidence, discussing matters in detail and coming to reasoned conclusions. Committee inquiries bring the Legislative Assembly to the citizens of the province by promoting public awareness and debate, as well as providing a forum for the presentations of the various views of individual citizens and interest groups. The contribution made to government policy-making and better administration through committee reports and recommendations is considerable. Finally, the oversight provided by the committees in the expenditure of public money serves to hold government to account for its actions and decisions.

Bill 100 - Public Interest Disclosure Tax Act, *is a Private Members' Bill that received first reading on December 8, 2009.*

Bill No. 200 - An Act to Amend an Act to Incorporate the Summerside Young Men's Christian Association, *is a Private Bill that received Royal Assent on December 8, 2009.*

However, the committee concluded that improvements to rationalize the system and distribute the workload in a balanced way would be recommended to the Legislative Assembly. As a result, the committees were reorganized, effective November 12, 2009, as follows:

1. **Standing Committee on Legislative Management** to be composed of the Speaker as Chair; Deputy Speaker or designate; Government House Leader or designate; Government Caucus Chair or designate; Leader of the Official Opposition or designate; Opposition Caucus Chair or designate; and Leader of the Third Party or designate. All designates must be members of the Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee on Legislative Management is charged with matters as follows:

    (a) policies for the administration of the Legislative Assembly;

Special Committees are created for a particular purpose, then disbanded when that purpose is discharged. They can be established during the course of each session, and vary in number and mandate.

(b) the provision of security, facilities and services, including allocation to party caucuses and individual members;

(c) the appointment, supervision and management of the staff of the Legislative Assembly, other than the staff of party caucus offices and the office of the Leader of the Opposition;

(d) review of estimates of expenditure for the Legislative Assembly, including the forecasts and analysis of expenditures and financial commitments of the Legislative Assembly;

(e) other matters necessary for the efficient and effective operation and management of the Legislative Assembly.

2. **Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills** with said committee charged with matters concerning the privileges and rules of the Legislative Assembly, private bills; and empowered to sit when the House is not in session.

3. **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** with said committee charged with matters concerning the public accounts of the province and the annual report of the Auditor General.

4. **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry** with said committee charged with matters concerning agriculture, the environment, energy and forestry.

5. **Standing Committee on Health, Social Development and Seniors** with said committee charged with matters concerning health, social development and seniors; and

responsible for recommending to the Legislative Assembly persons to serve on the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission.

6. **Standing Committee on Education and Innovation** with said committee charged with matters concerning education, higher learning and economic development.

7. **Standing Committee on Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development** with said committee charged with matters concerning fisheries, transportation and rural development.

8. **Standing Committee on Community and Intergovernmental Affairs** with said committee charged with matters concerning community and cultural affairs, labour and justice, intergovernmental affairs and the Constitution of Canada.

Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development

The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development undertook two major reviews in 2009. The first was an evaluation of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* which resulted in a total of 16 amendments being proposed to the members of the Legislative Assembly. In completing this work, the committee was assisted by Ms.Judy Haldemann, Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner, whose insights and knowledge of the Act were extremely beneficial.

The second review was of the role of the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission in serving Islanders' interests with regard to energy costs and rent increases. The order of reference instructed the committee to consult with Island

consumers and industry stakeholders. To do this, the committee placed a series of advertisements in Island newspapers inviting individuals and organizations to submit their views. In addition, information concerning the committee's mandate, along with a comment form for response, was posted on the Legislative Assembly's website. Four public meetings were held, and a total of 52 submissions were received by the committee. In November, the committee made the following recommendations to the Legislative Assembly:

1. That the report entitled *Review of Prince Edward Island's Rental of Residential Property Act*, dated May 2006; along with the response and accompanying recommendations from IRAC, dated July 26, 2006, be carefully reviewed by government with the goal of bringing amendments to the *Rental of Residential Property Act* before the Legislative Assembly in the spring of 2010. Additionally, the committee recommended that the mechanism for increasing the amount of rent be reviewed by government in order to ensure fairness for both tenants and landlords.

2. That IRAC continue in its fuel pricing regulatory role; however, greater efforts toward educating the public on fuel price determination are warranted. The committee also recommended that unscheduled price adjustments be eliminated in favour of a biweekly pricing schedule; that is, prices would be subject to change on the first of the month, and the 15th of the month only.

3. That the *Electric Power Act* be amended. A number of concerns were raised during the public consultation phase of the committee's work regarding the

importance of fair electricity prices for Islanders and greater consumer price protection, as well the need for more self-sufficiency in meeting PEI's energy requirements. As examples, time of day billing, development of local, sustainable energy generation, potential benefits of separating power generation and distribution, and many other issues need to be addressed in legislation to reflect today's energy realities. Further public input is required on this issue, and the committee recommended that additional community consultations be undertaken.

4. That government consider funding the services of a Public Intervener in order to give ordinary Islanders a place to call for technical and legal advice, and referrals when they are facing complicated situations with regard to the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission.

5. The committee also heard from Island citizens concerned with the effect of wind farms on human health and property value. This was outside the scope of the committee's mandate; however, the committee recommended that the province–in particular, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry–carefully consider the development of wind farms and related topics, such as notice to landowners, minimum setbacks, health effects, loss of property value and potential design solutions for current and future wind farms, as it explores energy issues in the future.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts commenced its

work in January 2009 with a review of the report of the Auditor General entitled Government's Involvement with Natural Organic Food Group PEI Inc. Audit Report, dated September 2008. Chair of the committee, Jim Bagnall (District 3, Montague-Kilmuir) removed himself from the position, identifying his past involvement with Natural Organic Food Group PEI Inc. (NOFG) while serving as Minister of Agriculture. He indicated that he would remain as an active member of your committee. Subsequently, Buck Watts (District 8, Tracadie-Hillsborough Park) was elected, by motion, to the position of interim chair of the committee, to hold the post for the duration of consideration of this file. Robert Vessey (District 9, York-Oyster Bed) was elected, by motion, to the position of vice-chair, for the same time period. In an unusual move, the committee, by majority decision, determined it would hear testimony from its chair on the issue. The rationale was that the chair had specific knowledge of the file due to his position as minister of agriculture in the former administration. Mr. Bagnall agreed, and appeared as a witness before the committee on (date).

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts started its annual review of the Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, dated March 10, in the fall of 2009. This review is done each year and is mandated by the Rules of the Legislative Assembly (see Rule 95). The Auditor General, assisted by his staff, is the principal witness during these proceedings. The Auditor reviews the Province's finances, special audits and examinations, and updates the committee on the status of recommendations from previous years. Additional and detailed information is often requested by the committee. Consideration of the report is

BEHIND THE SCENES - LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Social Development (*Inactice as of November 12, 2009*)

In late 2008, the following motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as the recent availability and popularity of high energy drinks in this province has resulted in health concerns being expressed by doctors and educators, and as Prince Edward Island's Assistant Chief Health Officer has stated the potential side effects of these drinks outweigh any benefits for children, and as the market for high energy drinks has rapidly expanded with some Maritime schools banning their sale altogether, the members of this Legislative Assembly shall direct the Standing Committee on Social Development to consult with Islanders regarding the health risks of high energy drinks while seeking direction on possible restrictions on the sale of these drinks.

The Standing Committee on Social Development undertook a series of public consultations regarding energy drinks in the winter and spring of 2009, and made the following recommendations to the Legislative Assembly:

1. That the Department of Health continue to support the efforts of various groups and associations to provide education to Islanders on the consumption of energy drinks; and

2. That the Department of Health work with its provincial and territorial counterparts and with Health Canada to ensure that regulations pertaining to energy drinks are followed.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Summary of Standing Committee Activity

Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry

MEMBERSHIP:
Alan McIsaac, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Michael Currie
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Robert Henderson
Charles McGeoghegan
Robert Vessey
Buck Watts

REPORTS: 0

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

Agriculture, Forestry and Environment

MEMBERSHIP:
Alan McIsaac, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Cynthia Dunsford
Robert Henderson
Charles McGeoghegan
Robert Vessey
Buck Watts

REPORTS: 2
Committee Activities
April 24, 2009

Committee Activities
November 18, 2009

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 3

Committee on Committees

MEMBERSHIP:
Robert Vessey
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Wes Sheridan

REPORTS: 1
Composition of the Standing Committees
December 3, 2009

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 0

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Community Affairs and Economic Development

MEMBERSHIP:
Rob Henderson, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Doug Currie (until January 5, 2009)
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Mitchell (until January 5, 2009)
Pat Murphy (as of January 5, 2009)
Janice Sherry

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 11

REPORTS: 4
Review of Bill 101
April 3, 2009

Review of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
April 16, 2009

Review of the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission
April 17, 2009

Review of the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission—Final Report
November 24, 2009

Community and Intergovernmental Affairs

MEMBERSHIP:
Rob Henderson, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Olive Crane
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Pat Murphy
Janice Sherry

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: 0

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Constitution of Canada

MEMBERSHIP:
Hon. Robert Ghiz, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Allan Campbell
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Valerie Docherty
Hon. Gerard Greenan
Robert Vessey

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 0

REPORTS: 0

Education and Innovation

MEMBERSHIP:
Sonny Gallant, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Michael Currie
Bush Dumville
Cynthia Dunsford
Charles McGeoghegan
Alan McIsaac
Pat Murphy

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: 0

Fisheries, Intergovernmental Affairs and Transportation

MEMBERSHIP:
Bush Dumville, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Michael Currie
Charles McGeoghegan
Robert Mitchell
Pat Murphy
Hon. Wes Sheridan
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 0

REPORTS: 0

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development

MEMBERSHIP:
Bush Dumville, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Michael Currie
Charles McGeoghegan
Alan McIsaac
Robert Mitchell (as of December 8, 2009)
Pat Murphy
Hon. Wes Sheridan (until December 8, 2009)
Buck Watts

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: 0

Health, Social Development and Seniors

MEMBERSHIP:
Janice Sherry, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Hon. Olive Crane
Bush Dumville
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Henderson

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 1

REPORTS: 0

Privileges, Rules and Private Bills

MEMBERSHIP:
Paula Biggar, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Hon. Richard Brown
Hon. Olive Crane
Hon. Ron MacKinley
Janice Sherry
Robert Vessey
Hon. George Webster

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 4

REPORTS: 2
Committee Activites and Restructured Committee System
April 7, 2009

Election of Chair and Private Bill No. 200
December 8, 2009

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Public Accounts

MEMBERSHIP:
Jim Bagnall, Chair
Paula Biggar
Hon. Olive Crane
Cynthia Dunsford (until January 5, 2009)
Sonny Gallant
Charles McGeoghegan
Pat Murphy
Janice Sherry
Robert Vessey (as of January 5, 2009)
Buck Watts (Vice-chair)

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 14

REPORTS: 2
Committee Activities
April 29, 2009

Consideration of the NOFG Audit Report and *Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, 2009*
November 20, 2009

Social Development

MEMBERSHIP:
Janice Sherry, Chair
Jim Bagnall
Paula Biggar
Michael Currie
Cynthia Dunsford
Sonny Gallant
Robert Henderson
Hon. Neil LeClair

NUMBER OF MEETINGS: 5

REPORTS: 3
Exploring Health Risks of Energy Drinks, Interim Report
April 8, 2009

PEI Human Rights Commission
April 16, 2009

Exploring Health Risks of Energy Drinks
November 19, 2009

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

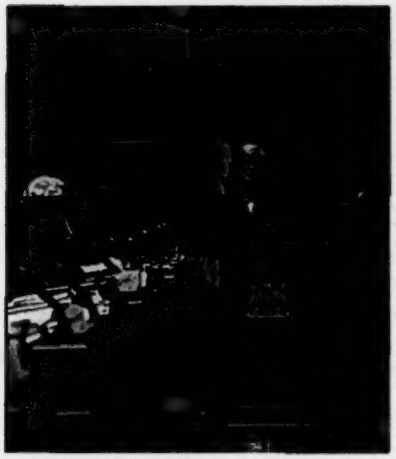
Attending conferences helps staff and members develop professional skills, allowing them to network with peers and colleagues and learn about the latest developments in public administration and job performance

Conference Activity

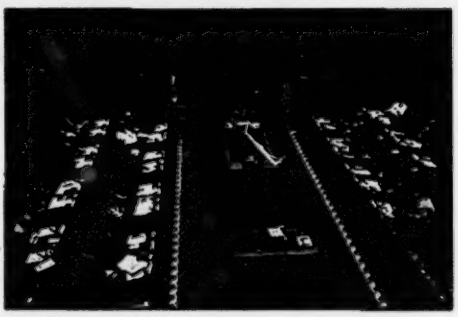
- The Twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees was held in Edmonton, Alberta, on September 13,-16, 2009. Attending from Prince Edward Island were delegates Jim Bagnall (District 3, Montague-Kilmuir) and Buck Watts (District 8, Tracadie-Hillsborough Park).

- The Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) is a national association that meets annually to discuss topics of mutual interest. Its members represent the parliamentary public accounts committees, or similar committees, of all 14 parliaments within Canada – the federal House, the ten provincial assemblies and three territorial legislatures.

- Marian Johnston, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, attended the annual Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, held in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, August 3-7, 2009; and the Joint Canadian-American Clerks Conference held in Toronto, Ontario from October 15-19, 2009, where she was a panelist for the business session entitled "Greening the Legislature - Now and in the Future."



Above: *Marian Johnston presenting at the Joint Canadian-American Clerks Conference.*



Right: *Joint Canadian-American Clerks Conference, meeting in the Ontario legislature.*

BEHIND THE SCENES - HANSARD

HANSARD MANAGER
Jeff Bursey

Daily debates

Throughout 2009, Hansard PEI continued producing the daily debates in a timely fashion. The full Hansard document is produced on a strict schedule: Tuesday's Hansard is distributed on Thursday, Wednesday's Hansard is distributed on Friday, Thursday's Hansard is distributed on Tuesday, and Friday's Hansard is distributed on Wednesday. It is the aim of this office to make sure that the document is ready for 5:00 p.m. the day before publication so that it can be put online. Changes made in the fall of 2008 means that Question Period is available by suppertime, usually, on the same day that it occurs; the timing of its print appearance–on the next day– remains stable.

Hansard PEI was created in 1996, at the commencement of the 4th Session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly.

On 2 April 2009 the House re-opened, closing on 15 May. For a short period in April, and without much notice, the Assistant Manager took over editing and publication duties in Hansard. The daily debates came out only a little later than usual, while Question Period was delivered on its regular schedule. Subscribers to Question Period, while changing in name, have shown a slow increase in number with each year; now there are roughly 110 subscribers.

In February 2009 Hansard released the Index to the daily debates which covered the 1st session of the 63rd General Assembly that began in July 2007 and the 2nd session up to 3 December 2008, though that session had not concluded. After the session ended on 15 May 2009 Hansard incorporated the contents of the spring sitting into the index, and in August published a 266-page index for the 1st and 2nd sessions.

Since 2003 both the Hansard document and the division itself have advanced steadily in terms of layout of debates, professionalism, and breadth of operations.

Committee transcripts and indices

Standing Committees of the Legislature kept busy, and as a

reflection of that, in January 2009 Hansard published volume 2 of Index of Committees, which spanned the period 6 May 2008–17 December 2008. This was a natural end date as many committees had finished their slate of work and had not yet started consideration of new topics. As before, the second volume of Index of Committees has proven useful to members, staff, and the general public. Volume 3 of the Index of Committees, covering the period 8 January 2009-16 June 2009, was published in July 2009, and volume 4 (covering 24 September to 10 November 2009) was released in January 2010. All volumes were put online. These indices do not contain any material from in camera discussions.

Digitization of reel-to-reel tapes

From 1968 to 1995 House debates were recorded on reel-to-reel tape, stored in the Public Archives in the Coles Building, and accessible only if someone visited their offices. The debates had been transcribed only for certain speeches in reply to the throne speech; the rest, such as question period, generally were not transcribed. The tapes are slowly deteriorating, while the recorder used to play them is old. In February 2009 Hansard staff began digitizing the reel-to-reels, starting with the 3rd Session of the 51st General Assembly (22 February-25 April 1968), and then transcribed the audio. The digital recordings were sent to an IT technician whose task is to place them, eventually, online in an audio archive. With 27 years of tape to listen to this project will take some time to complete, but when it's done the contribution of past members will be reclaimed and a valuable part of Island history will have been made accessible to more people than ever before.

In the period before the re-opening of the House on 12 November, and after it closed on 8 December through to the

end of the calendar year, Hansard staff resumed the digitizing project, this time on the 4th Session of the 51st General Assembly (11 March 1969 to 6 June 1969).

The debates from 1968 were transcribed by Hansard staff in 2009; there is a proposal to scan the previously transcribed speeches from that year (responses to the throne speech) in such a way that the two sets of files can be merged together for eventual editing.

Bound Hansards

In June, the 1st and 2nd sessions of the 63rd General Assembly were sent to the Queen's Printer for eventual publication in bound form. The daily debates totalled 4,783 pages (2,739,086 words), with the 266-page index added to that.

Branding of the Legislative Assembly: a joint venture

A new initiative was unveiled in August when, for the first time, the Legislative Assembly introduced products to help get it known better in the community. The Manager of Hansard and the Research Librarian created the following products: two sets of stamps, one with the Mace, the other with Province House; note cards featuring interior and exterior images of Province House; and postcards that featured interior and exterior images of Province House and the J. Angus MacLean Building. In addition to these, a wall calendar featuring exterior and interior images of Province House and the Coles Building was created. The calendar portion itself contained historical dates of note.

These branding tools were designed to place the Legislative Assembly in front of people's eyes. All products went for sale to members and the general public; they could be purchased at select stores in Charlottetown, as well as at the Province House gift shop.

Hansard Association of Canada Conference

As is usual, in August the Hansard Association of Canada held their annual conference, this time in Regina. Hansard was asked to participate in a panel discussion go-around, as well as to contribute thoughts and experiences after a presentation on how jurisdictions dealt with the publication and dissemination of the daily Hansard and the bound Hansards. The conference ended with a look ahead to 2010, when Hansard PEI will be host for the first time in its history.

Indexing the 1996 to spring 2002 Hansards

From Hansard's first days in February 1996, and through to spring 2002, the index to the daily debates was rudimentary. Currently, it is available only in print to the small number who have the bound Hansards. Both the inadequacy of the index and the gap in information retrieval needed to be addressed.

In mid-December one of Hansard's staff (Aimée Belmore) began making inroads on this assignment, compiling an index that conforms to the standards set out in the 2002-2003 index, created by the Manager. The first index covers the 4th session of the 59th General Assembly (29 February-2 May 1996) and appeared in late December. The index for the long 1997 session is underway currently. As each index is completed it will be put online, allowing Members and others to access records that are now not easily accessible.

BEHIND THE SCENES - HANSARD

Miscellaneous items

In July, for the second year in a row, the Manager addressed the legal studies class of CompuCollege. This affords the opportunity to inform those doing the transcription module of their program about careers in this occupation provincially, nationally, and internationally. Similarly, on October 30th the Manager of Hansard addressed the medical transcription students of Holland College, also for the second year in a row, on careers as a transcriber, and the special skills a parliamentary transcriber needs. Like the talk to CompuCollege students in July, this proved enlightening for the students. In both talks, questions were asked about skills and other matters relating to employment as a transcriber.

In August the Manager of Hansard wrote the biographies for the Order of PEI. September marked a slowdown in affairs of the House, but a special request came in that helped utilize the digitizing program for the reel-to-reel tapes. Hansard was asked to transcribe a portion of a debate on the press gallery from April 1971. Later that month attention turned to the Clerk's Journal for 2007-2009, containing the 1st and 2nd sessions of the 63rd General Assembly. The Journal's two volumes came out in December.

In mid-September committees resumed meeting; though transcribed elsewhere, they are edited by Hansard. Soon after concluding their public discussions the House re-opened on 12 November.

In the summer one of Hansard's staff left to take up a full-time position elsewhere, necessitating the running of an ad. Roughly 30 people applied, and of the seven selected for an interview four were bilingual. The position was filled in September. In October another transcriber decided to take

the fall sitting off and her position was filled by a temporary employee. November, therefore, began with training of the new permanent part-time employee and the temporary employee. By the time the House opened all the staff were prepared, and consisted of Linda Henry (Assistant Manager), Barbara O'Hare, Aimée Belmore, and Kimberley Johnston (temporarily replacing Cheryl Connell).

Conclusion

The year 2009 contained significant projects new to Hansard, and much that was familiar; the familiar deepens our experience, and the new enhances our abilities and experience. Building on this combination, the division looks ahead to 2010 when, among other things predictable and unpredictable, it will host the Hansard Association of Canada conference in August for the first time in Hansard PEI's history.

The bound Hansard, with index, has appeared since 1996. Volumes are distributed within the Legislative offices, to government and opposition offices, and to libraries locally and nationally. Here is a list of these volumes:
1996: 4th Session of the 59th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,238 pages)

1997-1998: 1st Session of the 60th General Assembly; 13 volumes (6,150 pages)

1998-1999: 2nd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,623 pages)

1999-2000: 3rd Session of the 60th General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,001 pages)

BEHIND THE SCENES -
HANSARD

2000: 1st Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,054 pages)

2000-2001: 2nd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (1,100 pages)

2001-2002: 3rd Session of the 61st General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,417 pages)

2002-2003: 4th Session of the 61st General Assembly; 3 volumes (2,788 pages)

2003-2004: 1st Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,300 pages)

2004-2005: 2nd Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 4 volumes (3,762 pages)

2005-2006: 3rd Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 3 volumes (3,466 pages)

2006-2007: 4th Session of the 62nd General Assembly; 2 volumes (2,281 pages)

2007-2009: 1st and 2nd Sessions of the 63rd General Assembly; 6 volumes (5,007 pages).

Behind the Scenes - Library

Research Librarian
Laura Morrell

The first Legislative Library was created in 1773, with the establishment of the Legislature, but by 1971 it was an adjunct of the Confederation Centre Public Library, and a responsibility of the Department of Education.

In the spring of 2009 the Library played host to a photography exhibit of the 2008 Cape Farewell Youth Exhibition, coordinated by Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk. Students, scientists, and artists traveled to the west coast of Greenland to witness the environmental impact of climate change on the high north. A student was chosen from every province and territory and, along with students from six other countries, they created art, conducted experiments, and talked with their schools via satellite and blog. The exhibition opened with a presentation by PEI's representative on the expedition, Sean White, York, PEI. The exhibit was available for public viewing, after which the oversized photographs were donated to Sean's school.

In partnership with the Hansard editor, the Library undertook a pilot project to create quality branded Legislative Assembly products as a means of increasing the Assembly's visibility in the community. A large format wall calendar, a set of four different note cards, and eight different postcards were created. A highlight of the project was the adoption of the calendar, which noted many important historical legislative dates, by the Department of Education for use in history classes throughout the Island. The process also provided valuable design and project management experience to staff involved.

Throughout 2009, the Library coordinated with Strategic Design and Information Technology Shared Services (ITSS) on a new look and reorganization for the website of the Legislative Assembly. The reorganized site was launched in September and received positive feedback from Assembly offices and the public. The efforts of both departments were greatly appreciated; it was a long and involved process made easier by the efforts of those involved.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
LIBRARY

In September, the Legislative Assembly welcomed Kyle Piercey as the Assembly's Co-op Student for the fall semester. Kyle was a senior at the University of Prince Edward Island and worked on database compilations during his co-op experience. The Library took over supervision of the co-op position while Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk, was off on maternity leave.

Administrative support was provided to the Indemnities and Allowances Commission during its review of MLA remuneration. The Library also designed and produced the Legislative Assembly's Annual Report and answered reference questions from peers and researchers across Canada, from members and, occasionally, from other government agencies.

In October of 2009 the Research Librarian attended the national meeting of the *Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada* in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Topics discussed ranged from sessions on staffing and space concerns to budgetary restrictions in the economic downturn.

2009 was an exciting year full of new projects and undertakings - the Research Librarian is looking forward to what 2010 will bring.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
RESEARCH SERVICE

RESEARCH OFFICER
Ryan Conway

In 2009 the Research Service continued mainly in writing research briefs and reports upon the request of MLAs, caucus staff and standing committees. Research frequently involves looking at the policy and legislation of other jurisdictions to help inform standing committee considerations or to provide background information for MLAs wishing to draft resolutions or bills. Retrieval of statistics and historical summaries of local organizations are also common requests. The Research Officer also provides in-meeting support to standing committees and the committee clerk, and assists with the drafting of committee reports.

In 2009 the Research Officer joined a listserv of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) that allows the exchange of reference questions and research among jurisdictions. This is a well-used listserv, with multiple requests for information sent out every week.

In the late spring of 2009 a Legislative Interpreter student position was created to provide visitor interpretation of Province House as the seat of the Legislative Assembly. To provide content for the Legislative Interpreter to draw on, the Research Officer developed a guide and training program that incorporated historical and current information and built upon the material Parks Canada provides to its interpretive staff. The Research Officer continues to be the Legislative Assembly's representative in the Parliamentary Visitor Services Association (PVSA).

In September of 2009 the Research Officer attended the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta. This conference was an excellent opportunity to learn about the operation of Public Accounts committees and auditors general across Canada, as well connect with many other researchers and analysts.

Behind the Scenes - Sergeant-at-Arms

The office originated in the early years of British Parliament, when mace-bearing members of the Royal bodyguard were assigned to attend the Speaker at sittings of the House of Commons.

The Role of the Sergeant-At-Arms

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the Legislative Assembly Act, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition; with the Sergeant-At-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges , and carry out the various parliamentary functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in Province House and the Coles Building. At present, assisting the Sergeant-At-Arms in the delivery of security services are seven Members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (one full-time and six part-time).

Sergeant-At-Arms & Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod
Warrant Officer J.A. (Al) McDonald, C.D.

Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment, additional training of security personnel, liaising with Charlottetown City Police as required, creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, contact for assistance with public demonstrations, and other duties.

Activities

The spring of 2009 brought further updates to the security system at the Legislative Assembly with additional cameras and continued updates to computers and monitors, for enhanced security.

Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Maurice Fitzpatrick

2009 also brought additional security responsibilities to the security staff at the Honourable George Coles Building with

BEHIND THE SCENES - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

W/O Al McDonald, C.D., a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for 27 years, was appointed Sergeant-At-Arms July 6, 2007.

the installation of cameras and the ability to view the exterior cameras on the Legislature on a monitor at the security desk, which greatly enhances security of the grounds and the buildings, and allows security duties to be carried out in a more efficient and professional manner.

During the past year I had the privilege of attending the Commonwealth Sergeant-At-Arms Conference in London, England, from July 27 to July 31, 2009. In attendance were Sergeant-At-Arms, Deputy Sergeant-At-Arms, Directors of Security, Usher of the Black Rod, and Security Operations Managers from most of the Commonwealth countries. The conference was hosted by Jill Pay, Sergeant-At-Arms of the House of Commons, London, England. Topics discussed at the conference included:

Commissionaires Trevor Darrach (L) and Morgan Mitchell (R).

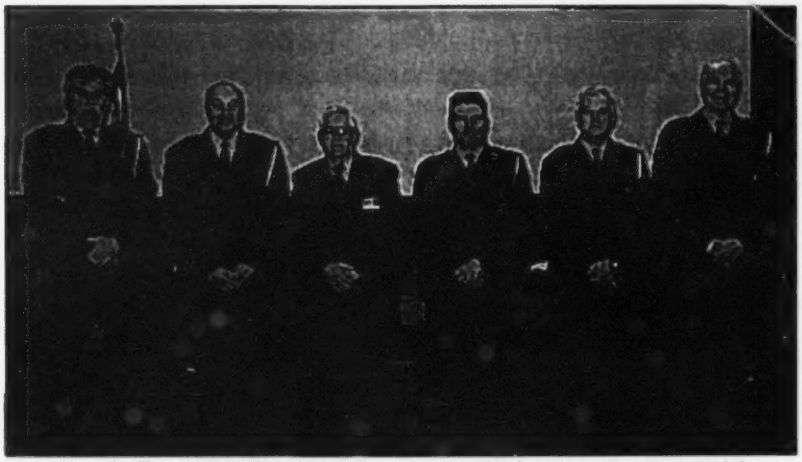
- Security Challenges
- Estate Strategy
- The Commonwealth
- Ceremonial Regalia and the British Honours System
- Integrated Security Systems for the 21st Century
- How does change happen in the workplace?
- Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology
- Global Use of Parliamentary Websites
- Outreach, Constituency, and Education
- The Fixed Threat Assessment Centre—Mail Security
- Metropolitan Police Control (off site mail screening)
- Tour of Metropolitan Police Control Centre

A great deal was learned from the conference and workshop discussions, enabling the Sergeant-At-Arms to return and

implement changes to security, allowing for a safer and more secure workplace for all.

The Sergeant-At-Arms Conference is held each year in a different location and I am looking forward to future meetings and discussions on ways we can make Prince Edward Island's legislature a safer and better place to work.

2009 provided an increase in security staff at the Legislative Assembly. The new staff members are Allison MacDonald and Barry Sherren. Security staff at the House welcomes the return of Bob Horbin, Joe Bashsa, and Fred Fordham, while Commissionaires Trevor Darrach and Morgan Mitchell continue overseeing security at the Hon. George Coles Building.



Security Staff, L to R: *Allison MacDonald, Joe Basha, Maurice Fitzpatrick (Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms), Fred Fordham, Barry Sherren, Bob Horobin*

BEHIND THE SCENES -
SESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

OFFICERS
Gail Jenkins

Myra LeCLair

The Sessional Administrative Office supports the records retention aspect required of the Clerk in his duty to maintain accurate records of the House. The Sessional Administrative Office receives and archives a copy of everything tabled in the House during a session, as well as copies of documents tabled intersessionally. While the House is in session, office staff attend sittings and cue House proceedings for the transcribers in the Hansard office.

During sessions, staff produces daily publications such as copies of bills and legislation, the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, and Questions and Answers, providing copies of same to the Clerks, Members, and the media.

As part of its role as clearinghouse for Assembly documents, staff also undertakes daily mailings to Opposition Office, Government Members Office, Island New Democrats, Hansard, PEI Law Society, Government Services Library, Legislative Library, Robertson Library at UPEI, and Library of Parliament, Ottawa. In addition to sending out hard copies of documents, staff also maintains the Legislative Assembly website with daily postings of the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, Legislation, Questions, Answers, Documents Tabled, Oral Question Period, and Hansard.

The office is also responsible for managing the pages who serve in the House during a session, providing training, support, and scheduling.

When the House is not in session, staff works with the Standing Committees in recording, cueing in speakers, and providing transcripts of meetings.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
INDEMNITIES & ALLOWANCES COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair

Blair Campbell, Commissioner

Leonard Cusack, Commissioner

DATE REPORT FILED
December 1, 2009

The Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (pursuant to Section 46 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. L-7) and is charged with the responsibility of making binding decisions on remuneration and allowances to be paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier, Speaker, Ministers of the Crown, various House and Executive Council Committee positions.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed or for not more than five years.

The Commission conducts an annual review of remuneration and allowances and submits, on or before December 1 each year, a report determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the persons referred to in subsection 46(1) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*.

Members of the Commission as appointed by Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the 63rd General Assembly are:

- Ms. Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair
- Mr. Blair Campbell, Commissioner, and,
- Mr. Leonard Cusack, Commissioner

The Commission's 2009 report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Speaker December 1, 2009. The report determined there would be no increase in remuneration provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Ministerial, and other associated positions effective April 1, 2010.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed, or for no more than five years.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

CPA COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Aims, Goals and Activities of the Association

The Association is a charity registered under the laws of the United Kingdom.

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it.

CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament.

The CPA pursues these objectives by means of

- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably *The Parliamentarian*, *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications.

BEHIND THE SCENES -

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIAITON

BRANCH PRESIDENT
Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Branch, CPA

The PEI Branch of CPA is comprised of all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. The Hon. Kathleen Casey, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, serves as Branch President and Vice-Presidents are Hon. Robert Ghiz, Premier, and Hon. Olive Crane, Leader of the Opposition.

Activities

In 2009 the Prince Edward Island Branch participated in the following activities of the Canadian Region of the CPA:

- 47th Annual Canadian Regional Conference, Toronto, Ontario.
- 28th Atlantic Provinces Parliamentary Conference, Fredericton, New Brunswick.
- Annual Canadian Regional Seminar, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories was held in in October, 2008.
- 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Small Countries Conference, Arusha, Tanzania. Branch President Honourable Kathleen Casey, who attended this meeting as one of three Canadian Regional representatives, was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee for the full Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Speaker Casey also attended the Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting in Bermuda.

BEHIND THE SCENES -
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

PRESDIENT, PEI SECTION OF THE *ASSEMBLÉ PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE*
Cynthia Dunsford, MLA

SECRETARY, PEI SECTION OF THE *ASSEMBLÉ PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE*
Melissa Keefe, Committee Clerk

As President of the Prince Edward Island Region of *L'assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF) I have had the opportunity to attend and participate in the International Plenary Assembly held in Paris, France, in July 2009, and the American Region Conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in September 2009.

The America Regional Conference held in Halifax included topics such as: the linguistic duality in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and Paralympics; the current situation of the Acadian community in Nova Scotia and the *French Services Act*; an update on the education system in New Brunswick.

The International Plenary Assembly held in Paris, France included the Women's Parliamentarian section meetings with discussions concerning women's health and women's rights, specifically with regards to war-torn countries.

The Plenary sessions were dominated mainly with the global economic crisis and its affect on programming and poverty in developing countries. Some of the many resolutions debated and passed included: Desertification at the Intersection of Environment and Development; La Francophonie in the fight against HIV / AIDS; Children in Armed Conflict; political situation within the Francophone community.

I look forward to the 2010 sessions and the strengthening of the relationships with other jurisdictions in this region and around the world.